

Date 24/11/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10787

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – BIRTH TEARS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to birth tears.

Question:

- In every year since 2020/21, how many women have experienced (a) significant blood loss and (b) serious birth tears while receiving maternity care in your health board?
- By “serious birth tears”, I mean third or fourth degree perineal tears, otherwise known as “obstetric anal sphincter injuries”, which were sustained during the vaginal delivery of a baby.

Answer:

year	Total
2020	226
2021	215
2022	221
2023	192
2024	259
2025	165
Total	1278

Question:

- By “significant blood loss”, please can you tell me the number of women who experienced:
 1. More than 500ml of blood loss
 2. More than 1000 ml of blood loss
 3. More than 1500ml of blood loss
 4. More than 2000ml of blood loss

Headquarters
Mainpoint
102 West Port
Edinburgh EH3 9DN

Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox
Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board

Answer:

year	>=500	>=1000	>=1500	>=2000
2020	3571	654	207	156
2021	3835	754	248	160
2022	3729	710	256	171
2023	3982	751	258	150
2024	4169	799	275	159
2025	3330	645	218	122
Total	22616	4313	1462	918

I hope the information provided helps with your request..

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
 Cc: Chief Executive